Request of Andhra Pradesh Government to open Singareni Coalfields Limited

2437. SHRI P.N. SIVA: Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Andhra Pradesh Government has requested the Union Government to clear Rs. 500 crores as arrears in order to open the Singareni Coalfields Limited closed due to strike by workers; and

(b) if so, the action taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does nor arise in view of answer given to part (a) above.

Survivors of Mine Collapse in West Bengal

2438. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO:
SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:

Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether signs of survivours were detected in an abandoned mine that had collapsed in West Bengal in October, 2001;

(b) the action taken by the Director General of Mines Safety to rescue them;

(c) the details of persons rescued and action taken against the mafia sending the miners; and

(d) what is the outcome of the inquiry conducted by Government into the mishap?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) After occurrence of subsidence on 10-10-2001 at Lalbandh near Asansol, West Bengal in a private land due to illegal mining the district administration requested the ECL management to conduct rescue/ recovery operations. During the operations no indication of any

survior was detected even after removing 30,000 cu.m. of earth/ stone from the subsidence site till 31-10-2001.

(b) Director General of Mines Safety provides the necessary guidance to rescue operations. In the instant case, at least one officer of DGMS was kept posted at the site of the accident for the entire period during which rescue efforts were being made.

(c) and (d) No survivor or dead body was found. Action taken against the mafia does not come within the purview of DGMS/
CIL. Illegal mining is the concern of the State administration and police. It is for them to conduct such enquiry and investigation as they consider necessary.

Comparative price of imported and indigenously produced coal

† 2439. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the price of imported coal in the country is less than the consumer selling price of indigenously produced coal;

(b) if so, what has been the maximum and minimum prices of both types of coal during the year 2000-2001, month-wise details thereof; and

(c) what are the reasons of the landed cost of imported coal to Indian ports being lesser than the cost of indigenously produced coal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) Imported coal, *perse,* at ports is costlier than the pit-head price of Indian coal on per tonne basis. However, the delivered price of Indian coal upon transportation over long distances becomes higher than the price of imported coal on equated energy basis mainly due to following factors:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.